



NEWS RELEASE

Rural Development

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302 • <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING LOAN FUNDS THROUGH RURAL HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM Now Accepting Proposals

ALEXANDRIA, June 27, 2003 – USDA Rural Development is accepting concept proposals from non-profit and for-profit organizations for the Rural Housing Demonstration Program. Rural Development has dedicated \$1 million to fund this program nationwide.

The Rural Housing Demonstration Program allows Rural Development to loan money to low-income families to purchase homes which do not meet existing published housing standards—but which do demonstrate affordability, durability, and energy efficiency.

“This program encourages organizations to use new and innovative approaches to construct housing—for example, including energy-saving materials, installing roofing that cools, and using building techniques that cut costs while improving quality,” says Michael B. Taylor, USDA Rural Development State Director. “Through this program, we hope to increase the availability of affordable rural housing for low-income families.”

Proposals should include design, development, and application of a complete housing unit, including effective use of land. Proposals should also include methods planned for adapting proposed housing units to a variety of housing types and site considerations.

To obtain more information or application forms for this initiative, contact Debbie Redfearn, Single Family Housing Program Director, USDA Rural Development, 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, telephone: (318) 473-7630; e-mail: debbie.redfearn@la.usda.gov. Applications received will be reviewed and processed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING LOAN FUNDS**

6/27/03

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices, located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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